

2(Amended). An assay method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the separation of said ligand bound fraction from said non-ligand bound fraction is so performed that the holo-TC II concentration is increased by at least 3-fold.

B1
cancel

3(Amended). An assay method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said assay is capable of detecting holo-TC II at a concentration as low as 9 pM.

Please cancel claims 9-12 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please replace claim 19 with the following amended claim 19.

19(Twice Amended). An assay method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said holo-TC II containing sample is contacted with labelled holo-TC II and immobilised ligand therefor; said labelled and non-labelled holo-TC II complexes compete for binding to the immobilised ligand and after equilibrium is reached, the amount of labelled holo-TC II bound to the immobilised ligand is indirectly proportional to the amount of holo-TC II in the sample.

B2

Please cancel claims 26 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer.